

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-06 AID-05 /022 W
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R 171159Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8681

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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DEPARTMENT FOR AMBASSADOR MARSHALL GREEN

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SPOP, IR

SUB: PROPOSED VISIT TO PAKISTAN BY MRS. ANGIER

BIDDLE DUKE, DRAPER FUND

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD 8389, (B) TEHRAN A-33

1. EMBASSY TEHRAN NOTES THAT MRS. ANGIER BIDDLE DUKE IS EVIDENTLY CONSIDERING A STOPOVER IN IRAN IN CONNECTION WITH A PROPOSED VISIT TO PAKISTAN TO PROMOTE FAMILY PLANNING EFFORTS. WHILE WE BELIEVE THE WORLD POPULATION PROBLEM WARRANTS ALL THE ATTENTION IT CAN GET AND WE RECOGNIZE THAT IRAN HAS A HIGH RATE OF POPULATION GROWTH, WE ARE UNEASY ABOUT AN UNSOLICITED VISIT TO IRAN AT THIS TIME BY MRS. DUKE.

2. AS WILL BE SEEN FROM REF B, THE DECISION MAKERS IN IRAN ARE COMMITTED TO A POLICY OF CONTROLLING POPULATION GROWTH AND HAVE INSTITUTIONALIZED THIS IN THE FAMILY PLANNING DIVISION OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE. IN ADDITION, THERE IS A VIGOROUS BUT MODEST PROGRAM UNDER THE FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION OF IRAN. THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS IN IRAN'S FAMILY PLANNING EFFORT ARE INSUFFICIENT COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT, NEED TO CHANGE ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOR THROUGH EDUCATION AND MASS COMMUNICATION, AND FAILURE TO EXTEND THE PROGRAM INTO RURAL AREAS

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WHERE THE NEED IS GREATEST. THE GOI IS WELL AWARE OF

THESE SHORTCOMINGS AND JUST IN THE LAST FEW DAYS HAS
ANNOUNCED "A NEW PROGRAM DESIGNED TO BRING KNOWLEDGE AND
FACILITIES TO LARGER NUMBERS OF THE RURAL SECTOR."

3. IN OUR JUDGMENT, THE GOI IS MOVING AHEAD IN THE FAMILY
PLANNING FIELD ABOUT AS EFFECTIVELY AS CAN BE EXPECTED IN
THE CONTEXT OF THE COUNTRY'S RAPID INDUSTRIALIZATION AND
URBANIZATION, WHICH PLACE GREAT DEMANDS ON ALL MANPOWER
AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES. WE BELIEVE PROBING OR SUGGESTIONS
WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN REQUESTED BY THE GOI, NO MATTER HOW
DIPLOMATICALLY CARRIED OUT, WILL RUFFLE IRANIAN SENSI-
TIVITIES AND BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. A VISIT AT THE INVITA-
TION OF DR. AMIR MANSOUR SARDARI OR MISS SATTAREH FARMAN-
FARMAIAN WOULD BE QUITE ANOTHER MATTER.
HELMS

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